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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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AUG 26

1. DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 25!

PREDICTED HEAVY TURNOUT (75-80 PERCENT) SEPTEMBER 11 AND LITTLE OR NO SECURITY PROBLEMS AT POLLING PLACES IN CHOLON. NO VC PROPAGANDA CONCERNING ELECTION HAS TURNED UP YET.! SAID ALL-CHINESE LIST I MAY GET OVER 60 PERCENT OF VOTE AND ELECT THREE CANDIDATES TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

2.! [redacted] CHINESE MERCHANT [redacted] COUNCILMAN, [redacted] IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 24 FORECAST 70 PERCENT TURNOUT WITH 50-60 PERCENT OF VOTE FOR HIS SLATE. SAID NGUYEN DAI THANG, LIST IV, NGUYEN VAN PHUC, LIST V, AND NGUYEN VAN HUONG, LIST VIII, ALL OF WHOM ARE VIETNAMESE, ARE OTHER POSSIBLE WINNERS.

3. O BASIS ABOVE AND OPINIONS OFFERED BY CHINESE C NITY LEADERS PROBABLE WINNERS INSAIGON PRECINCT II ARE:

A. DIE VAN HUNG, 34, A NAINANESE BORN AND RAISED IN HAIPHONG. HIS MOTHER AND WIFE BOTH VIETNAMESE AND DIEP SPEAKS FLUENT VIETNAMESE. HE RUNS SMALL IMPORT-EXPORT HOUSE, WAS HEAD OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL'S ECNOMIC COMMITTEE AND NOW CHAIRS COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE. DIEP IS FORCEFUL AND AMBITIOUS BUT DOES NOT SEEM TO AVE CLOSE TIES WITHINESE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY.

B. TANG CUU, 32 A CONAONESE BORN IN CHOLON. TANG RUNS TRAVEL SERVICE IN CHOLON AND SEEMS TO HAVE NO QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE OR NUMBER TWO POSITION ON LIST OTHER

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THAN FRIENDSHIP WITH AND, ACCORDING TO WILLINGNESS TO PAY BILLS.

C. KHOANG TRONG VINH, 63, CHIEF OF CHOLON CANTONESE CONGREGATION AND HEAD OF FEDERATION FO CONGREGATIONS. KHOANG WAS TRAINED IN FRANCE AS AN ENGINEER, NOW RUNS PRIVATE SCHOOL IN CHOLON. HE HEADS CONGREGATION SCHOOL COMMITTEE, IS DIRECTOR OF CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SERVES ON SPECIAL CHINESE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ORGANIZED BY VAN VAN CUA. DESPITE VARIOUS TITLES HE IS NOT REGARDED AS REAL POWER IN CHINESE COMMUNITY AND IS KEEPING FEDERATION CHIEF SEAT WARM FOR MA TUYEN WHO IS STILL IN PRISON.

D. OTHER TWO CANDIDATES ON LIST I HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF ELECTION. HOWEVER, TRAN KIM, PRESIDENT OF FUKIEN CONGREGATION IN CHOLON AND PROMINENT BENEFACTOR TO CHINESE BUDDHISTS, AND QUACH KIM LONG, SWATOW MERCHANT WHO FAILED IN TRY FOR 1963 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT, SHOULD GIVE LIST FUKIEN AND SWATOW CONGREGATION SUPPORT.

E. NGUYEN VAN PHUC, 40, VIETNAMESE, ARVN OFFICER WHO SHOULD BENEFIT FROM PRESENCE ON LIST V OF DIEP HAI BA, AN ENERGETIC CANTONESE MERCHANT.

F. NGUYEN VAN HUONG, 44, LIST VIII, PROMINENT DAI VIET PARTY MEMBER AND FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR BUILDING DEMOCRACY UNDER QUAT. HUONG WAS PREVIOUSLY ACTIVE IN CAO DAI PARTY, PHU QUOC HOI, AND IS FRIEND OF BROTHER OF CHIEF OF STATE NGUYEN VAN THIEU.

4. TWO PROBABLE CHINESE WINNERS ELSEWHERE ARE:

A. TRIEU SEN HOACH, 40, WAS ELECTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1963 AND IS CURRENTLY MEMBER OF SAIGON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND RUNNING FOR SEAT FROM SAIGON SECOND PRECINCT. HOACH OCCUPIES SECOND PLACE ON LIST HEADED BY LA THANH NGHE.

B. KHOANG YA SANG, 67, PRESIDENT OF NORTHER REFUGEE MINORITY RACES ASSOCIATION AND DIRECTOR WANG NAME ASSOCIATION IN CHOLON. KHOANG IS FORMER NUNG LEADER FROM SINO VIETNAMESE BORDER AND, MADE CONSIDERABLE FORTUNE IN

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SMUGGLING AGREEMENT WITH KMT GOVERNOR CHINA'S KWANG TUNG PROVINCE. DONG SAYS KHOANG IS RUNNING FOR BINH THUAN NUNG SEAT WITH SUPPORT OF GEN. VINH LOC. BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF CONSIDERS KHOANG PROBABLY WINNER OVER THREE OTHER NUNG CANDIDATES.

5. PROBABLE ELECTION OF FIVE CHINESE (INCLUDING THREE WITH SOME COMMITTEE INFIGHTING EXPERIENCE- -DIEP KHOANG TRONG VINH, TRIFU), WHILE NOT FULLY REFLECTING PROPORTION OF CHINESE IN TOTAL POPULATION, SOULD LEAD TO ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF CHINESE VIEWS IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

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